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RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1913.

THE WEATHER TO-DAY—Unsettled.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

More Than 7,000 Lives Lost in Ohio Flood; Dayton Destroyed

STATE PARALYZED BY ENORMITY OF FLOOD DISASTER

In Ruined City of Dayton 5,000 Are Reported Dead; in Hamilton, 1,000; and in Piqua, 540, While Other Cities Swell Size of Greatest Calamity That Has Ever Be-fallen Middle West—Fully 75,000 People Are Homeless, and Appeal Is Issued to the World for Assistance in Aiding Sufferers and Burying the Dead.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
COLUMBUS, OHIO, MARCH 25.—GOVERNOR JAMES M. COX, WITH THE SANCTION OF THE LEGISLATURE IN SESSION TO NIGHT, ISSUED AN APPEAL TO THE WORLD FOR ASSISTANCE FOR OHIO SUFFERERS.

More Than 7,000 Lives Are Lost.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Cleveland, Ohio, March 25.—More than 7,000 lives were lost in the fierce flood which swept through Ohio to-day, leaving in its trail damage estimated far into the millions.

The State is paralyzed. Railroad, trolley, telephone and telegraph traffic is blocked, and the cities in which hundreds of lives have been lost are cut off almost entirely from communication from the rest of the world.

According to reports, believed to be authentic, 5,000 were drowned in Dayton, fully 1,000 in Hamilton and 540 in Piqua.

75,000 People Are Homeless.

Millions of dollars' damage has been done to property, fully 75,000 people are homeless, and appeals for aid have been sent out to the Red Cross.

In Dayton alone 30,000 people are homeless.

The four days' continuous rain filled every reservoir in the State, and many of them to-day undermined dams and emptied their contents into the valleys. A wall seven feet high rushed down into Miami Valley.

At 8 o'clock to-night the Mayor of Dayton, Ohio, sent an appeal to Springfield, Ohio, in which he said probably 5,000 lives had been lost.

A dam in Piqua, Ohio, has gone out, and unconfirmed reports say that 540 lives have been lost in that disaster.

The Mayor of Dayton asked that food be sent without delay. Xenia already has started three cars of supplies to the stricken city.

The Springfield officials are now in session to take action for the relief of flood sufferers.

Flood gates were closed against all trains coming in or going out of Columbus to-night on all roads except the Norfolk and Western.

The water was so great that houses were undermined and carried along in the swift current. Hundreds were drowned before they had a chance to seek places of safety.

The water crept higher and higher, and finally it was thirteen feet deep at the Union Station. Some parts of the city were under 300 feet of water.

Mayor Confirms Rumor.

It was at first reported that 8,000 were drowned in Dayton. Later a message was received from a telephone operator in the Dayton exchange that he could see hundreds of bodies floating along through the streets past the telephone building. At 8 o'clock the Mayor of Dayton, who had escaped from the flood, sent a message declaring that 5,000 persons were drowned in the city; that 30,000 were homeless, and that the situation was appalling.

At 10 o'clock to-night the dam of a reservoir north of Hamilton, Ohio, burst, and a great flood swept down on the city. According to word from refugees, 1,000 were drowned.

In Piqua the river burst the levees, poured through the town and trapped hundreds of people in their homes. The swift current undermined the houses, and it is estimated that 540 were swept to their death.

In Delaware the Olentangy River became a lake which covered most of the city. Many were drowned. People were left clinging to trees, roof tops and telegraph poles crying for assistance. Owing to the swift current in the river, the work of rescue was difficult.

In Cleveland, while no lives were lost, the damage will reach \$2,000,000. The Cuyahoga River swept through the manufacturing district in the flats, closed down hundreds of mills and left more than 50,000 workers idle. The East Third Street Bridge was destroyed when a big steamer was swept from its moorings and crashed into it. Thousands of dollars' worth of lumber was swept from the river and out into the lake. Firemen were kept busy dynamiting lumber jams at the bridges.

In Youngstown 25,000 workmen were forced to quit work when most of the big industries were shut down because of the flood. All bridges in the city are guarded.

Naval Reserves Are Called Out.

Naval reserves have been called to Piqua from Toledo to render what assistance they can in caring for the dead and homeless.

The big bridge over Miami River, at Middletown, was

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SEETHING WATER COVERS DAYTON MANY FEET DEEP

Accurate Estimate of Loss of Life Now Is Impossible.

DOZEN FIRES ARE COMPLETING RUIN

Many Residences Swept Away With Occupants, While on Roofs of Buildings Are Gathered Helpless Men, Women and Children—Famine Is Threatened.

Water Now Falling

Dayton, March 26 (3:30 A. M.).—The crest was reached about midnight, and the water now is falling half an inch an hour.

(By Associated Press.)
Dayton, Ohio, March 25.—Dayton, except for its most remote suburbs, to-night was covered from eight to twenty feet with a seething flood of water. Any attempt to estimate the loss of life is hopeless.

It is sure to run into the hundreds, and very likely into the thousands, the Mayor placing the figures at 5,000. The property loss will total millions of dollars.

The flooded district comprises a practical circle, with a radius of a mile and a half, and in no place is the water less than six feet deep. In Main Street, in the downtown section, the water is twenty feet deep.

The horror of the flooded disaster is heightened by more than a dozen fires, which can be seen in the flooded district, but which are out of reach of fire fighters.

Most of the business houses and nearly all the residences have occupants. Downtown the offices are filled with men—fathers unable to get home.

In the upper floors and on some of the roofs of the residences are helpless women and children. Hundreds of houses, substantial buildings in the residence districts, many of them with helpless occupants, have been washed away.

The number of drowned cannot be estimated until the flood subsides. St. Elizabeth's Hospital, with 600 patients, was reported to have been washed away. The building was known to be in many feet of water, and indications are that the report may prove true.

The electric light plants were put out of business early in the day, and total darkness, coupled with a torrential downpour, added to the horrors of the night.

Famine also became an immediate possibility.

All of the supply and grocery houses are in the submerged district, and at midnight it was said there was not enough bread to last the survivors another day.

John H. Patterson, president of the National Cash Register Company, who headed the relief work in the south end of the city, sent out an appeal for food supplies and for doctors and medicine.

To-night 3,000 homeless were housed in his company's offices. A fire, which started from an explosion in the Meyer's Ice Cream Company, near Wyoming Street, spread and burned the block on South Park, about a block from Wyoming. Another big fire, reported to have burned a downtown block.

City Without Water.
A breaking of the Tarleton reservoir, which supplies the drinking water, left the city without water, and physicians declared there was great danger of typhoid in the use of the flood water.

There are no boats in Dayton which can breast the current, and those on the outside early gave up any attempts to reach the business section.

At Wyoming Street, on the south side, where the National Cash Register Company's central office is located, many saved their lives by creeping on a cable 100 feet above the flood.

At first firemen worked their way along the cables, carrying on ropes, to which the flat-bottomed boats were attached. When the flood became so fierce that the boats no longer were able to prevail against it, men and women were left to drown. Others, less daring, saw the darkness fall and gave up hope of rescue.

Those willing to risk their lives in the attempt to rescue found themselves helpless in face of the water.

A seventy thousand of Dayton's population. It is reported, are homeless. The National Cash Register plant, on a high hill, offers the only haven in the south end. Three women became mothers in the halls of its office building to-night.

In Midst of Furious River.
Dayton, Ohio, March 25.—Dayton is to-night nothing less than a seething river three miles wide, a mile and a half on each side of Main Street, its principal thoroughfare, while it is estimated that from 2,000 to 5,000 people have perished.

A school building that was known to have housed no less than 400 school children shortly before the water rushed in that direction, is entirely submerged, and as far as can be ascertained all of these little ones met a watery grave.

Thousands of those who were fortunate enough to have escaped the first rush of the waters are being fed to-night on short rations.

The Union Railroad Bridge that admits all except one of the railroads

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THOUSANDS DRIVEN FROM HOMES, AND NUMBER OF DEAD IS APPALLING IN FLOOD-SWEPT WESTERN STATES

Omaha Not In Need of Assistance

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Omaha, Neb., March 25.—"To the International News Service:

"One hundred and fifty are dead; 300 are injured. Property loss will reach from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000. We have matters well in hand and can get along without assistance. Our people are responding nobly. Please accept the thanks of our people for your inquiry. JAMES C. DAHLMAN, "Mayor."



JAMES C. DAHLMAN, Mayor of Omaha.

FLOODS AND FIRES SPREADING DEATH AND DESTRUCTION

Ohio in Grasp of Biggest Flood in Its History. Cities Are Isolated, but Reports Place List of Dead at More Than 5,000

(By the Associated Press.)
Columbus, Ohio, March 25.—Leaving death and destruction in its wake, what is said to be the biggest flood in the history of the State swept Ohio to-day, taking a toll of lives of probably more than 5,000, entailing a loss that probably will mount into millions of dollars, and literally cutting off this city and more than a half-dozen other towns from the rest of the world.

The city practically is isolated because of destruction of wires and the washing out of bridges. It is partially inundated, in darkness, and without gas because of the stage of swollen Scioto River. There were numerous fires, and hundreds were rendered homeless.

Meantime, the rain which began Sunday night continues, at times moderate and at other times in torrents. At Dayton probably the worst condition in the State prevails. Estimates of the number of dead from the flood there range up to 5,000, and while the principal streets of that city are under from ten to fourteen feet of water, the Miami River, given impetus by the breaking of the Laramie Dam, in Shelby County, continues on its mad rampage, flooding the business section in the city and sweeping dwellings before it.

Dayton Is Cut Off by Raging Water.
Because of the proportions of the flood, it is impossible to reach Dayton.

At Delaware, twenty-five miles north of Columbus, from nineteen to fifty are reported drowned as a result of the flooded Olentangy River, which broke out of its banks this morning.

This town also is isolated with the exception of intermittent telegraph service. One part is cut off from the other because the river channel runs practically through its centre, thus handicapping rescue work.

At Middletown, it is reported that probably fifteen were drowned when a bridge on which a number of people were standing watching the flood was swept away. Several bodies were recovered from the stream.

Cleveland, Akron, Toledo and Springfield also have sent out reports which show that probably a total of sixteen lost their lives.

Owing to disabled wire service and conditions in the cities affected by the flood, it is impossible to foretell accurately the total casualties.

As practically every bridge of steel and electric roads leading out of Columbus were washed away, nearly all train service was annulled to-day. Only a few street cars were able to operate in this city to-night.

State troops, at the order of Governor Cox, patrol the streets in the flooded sections of the city to-night, and scores of automobiles are busy carrying the suffering to higher ground.

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Swollen Rivers and Broken Reservoirs Pour Their Turgid Waters Over Many Cities in Several States, Drowning Thousands of People and Inflicting Enormous Property Damage.

REPORTS FROM STRICKEN DISTRICT ADDING TO FRIGHTFUL LOSS OF LIFE

Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri Worst Sufferers in Sudden Deluge Which Sweeps Down Upon Them Following Storm Which Had Laid Them Prostrate. 5,000 Reported Drowned at Dayton, While Many Are Known to Be Dead at Delaware—Vast Areas Are Inundated, and People Are in Ever-Increasing Danger of Water Claiming Them—Fraternal Appeals for Aid.

Summary of Flood Situation

Dayton, Ohio—Levee breaks, and business section is flooded with from seven to twelve feet of water. Report of 5,000 drowned. Reservoir in Shelby County breaks.

Findlay, Ohio—Business and residential section of city flooded and hundreds of families driven from homes. Schools and factories are closed.

Springfield, Ohio—The Mad River is on a rampage, and scores of families are homeless.

Delaware, Ohio—Nineteen persons drowned and several hundred others in imminent danger.

Columbus, Ohio—Ten thousand people homeless, and property loss running into the hundreds of thousands.

Lima, Ohio—Five hundred people have fled from their homes.

Zanesville, Ohio—The districts about the edge of the city are flooded. Wesley Klingler, five years old, was drowned.

Napoleon, Ohio—The Miami River is raging, having risen fourteen feet in the past twenty-four hours.

Troy, Ohio—The Miami River will reach a record mark. The heart of the city is under water. Miami and Erie Canal has broken its banks and is flooding the city.

Akron, Ohio—Million-dollar loss reported, hundreds rendered homeless.

Hamilton, Ohio—One thousand reported dead, and many bridges washed away.

Larue, Ohio—Inundated, many persons homeless, and much suffering.

West Liberty, Ohio—Mad River overrunning its banks.

Fort Wayne, Ind.—St. Joseph, Maumee and St. Mary Rivers on a rampage. Town without lights, and water famine threatened. Highest water in twenty years.

Marion, Ind.—Five hundred persons forced to flee for their ves.

Elwood, Ind.—Three hundred persons homeless.

St. Louis, Mo.—One person known to have been drowned, and many families forced to leave their homes.

Youngstown, Ohio—Twenty-five thousand men are idle by reason of the closing down of the mills and factories. The flood is the worst experienced in many years.

(By the Associated Press.)

Chicago, March 25.—Swept by wind and rain storms of terrific violence for three days, vast areas of the Middle West, from the Missouri River to the Alleghany Mountains, to-night are inundated; many persons have been drowned, and there has been enormous property loss.

Ohio, Indiana and parts of Illinois and Missouri suffered most severely. Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Lafayette, in Indiana, and Delaware, Dayton, Columbus and Youngstown, in Ohio, present particularly pitiful spectacles. In all of these cities there was some loss of life, according to reports available, and in each city the property loss was heavy.

Nineteen Lives Lost in Delaware.

In Delaware, Ohio, nineteen persons are known to have lost their lives and thirty to fifty others are missing. Terre Haute, swept by a disastrous tornado last Sunday, to-day was partly inundated, interfering with the removing of stricken families. The death list still remained at twenty, while the list of injured aggregates 250.

At Dayton, where three rivers, the Miami, Stillwater and Mad, and another stream, known as Wolf Creek, conjoin, there were thousands of lives lost, according to some reports, and destruction of property. For the most part, the city lies on a level flat, with the four streams meeting almost in the heart of the city. The streams are protected by levees twenty-five feet high. The levee protecting the Miami River broke about 6 o'clock this morning, and the flood was augmented by the rapidly rising waters of other streams. The situation was made worse by the breaking of the Laramie Reservoir, fifty miles above Dayton.

The waters swept through the city. One report which lacked confirmation was that water in the main streets was fifteen feet deep. All wire communication except one slender telephone wire to Phoneton, a station six miles away, was broken, and information regarding the status of affairs in Dayton was difficult to obtain. The telephone company reported many lives lost, but conflicting reports were persistent. Information from Cincinnati

(Continued on Sixth Page.)